# It's on! FAI World Air Games opens with a bang

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 4 December 2015 – **It was party time in Dubai last night (December 3), as the FAI World Air Games put on a high-energy evening of daredevil stunts and riotous colour at the official Opening Ceremony.**

Dancers and acrobats whirled around the enormous stage built just for the event, while performers dressed as skydivers and paramotor pilots flew over the crowd – seeming to leap in and out of the 40-metre screen behind the stage.

The crowd illuminated the stadium with their twinkling, multi-coloured wristbands. And up above, fireworks and strobes lit up the skies that have already served as the arena for a host of air sports competitions.

Athletes and spectators alike were entranced by the beauty and scale of the show, which culminated with the lighting of the World Air Games Flame.

*"It was great,"* said Polish microlight team member Kajetan Ruks. *"I've never seen anything like it before. And now, I want to see it again."*

FAI president Dr John Grubbström kicked off the proceedings by welcoming the crowd from the giant screen. *"I couldn't think of a better place to be,"* he said.

And there was a huge cheer when H.H Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum arrived; the crowd's wristbands turning red, green and white to form a United Arab Emirates flag in his honour.

Earlier in the day, spectators at the Desert Dropzone witnessed a world first: a radically new approach to flexwing microlight and gyrocopter races that got them even closer to the action.

*"The aim of this new format is to promote the sport. It really gives the spectators a great show,"* said event director Rob Grimwood.

UK champion Mark Fowler, flying a P&M Pegasus QuikR, lead after the first heat of the microlight competition.

- [Download the pictures in high resolution](#)
- [Get all the press releases in PDF format (French, English, German, Spanish, Russian)](#)
- [Download the daily highlights and contribution video clips](#)
- [Results](#)

**About the FAI World Air Games**
The FAI World Air Games, conducted under the rules of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), is the premier international multi-discipline air sports event fielding the world's top Air Sports athletes.

The FAI World Air Games 2015 has been awarded to the United Arab Emirates and will be held in Dubai. This multi-discipline event will be organised by the Emirates Aerosports Federation under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and will take place from 1 to 12 December 2015.

Ten air sports are programmed: Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Aerostats, Amateur-Built Aircraft, General Aviation, Gliding, Microlights & Paramotors, Parachuting, Paragliding and Rotorcraft.

The FAI's primary goals for this event are to determine "FAI World Air Games Champions"; to showcase air sports to the general public and promote public participation in air sports by attracting new participants to air sports disciplines; to promote FAI events to other sports organisations and to create an attractive platform for TV, media and other external stakeholders.

The past editions of the Games took place in Turkey (1997), Spain (2001) and Italy (2009).

**About FAI**
The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), also known as the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Balloons and Airships, Power Flying, Gliding, Helicopter flight, Parachuting, Aeromodelling, Aerobatics, Hang Gliding, Microlight and Paramotor Flying, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Manpowered Flying, Paragliding and all other Aeronautic and Astronautic sporting activities.

For more details, please contact the FAI – Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

Faustine Carrera
Communication Manager
+971 50 753 88 32
communication@fai.org

###